

Please amend the claims to the following:

1. (currently amended) A process for making a composite profile, including at least one core piece and one insert piece, each having a top surface and a bottom surface, and a length extending from a first end to a second end, and each having substantially the same profile from its first end to its second end, wherein said core piece defines a first channel sized to receive said insert piece, said channel extending lengthwise from said first end to said second end, comprising the steps of:

providing a crush rib between the bottom surface of the insert piece and the channel;

inserting said insert piece downwardly into said first channel, with the top surface of the insert initially above the top surface of the core; and

pressing said insert piece downwardly into said first channel to deform the crush rib until the top surfaces of the insert and the core are aligned.

2. (currently amended) A process for making a composite profile, including at least one core piece and one insert piece, each having a top surface and a bottom surface, and a first end and an opposite second end, wherein said core piece defines a first channel sized to receive said insert piece, comprising the steps of:

providing a crush rib between the bottom surface of the insert piece and the channel;

inserting said insert piece downwardly into the first channel of said core piece, with the top surface of the insert piece initially above the top surface of the core piece;

pressing said insert piece downwardly into said first channel to crush the crush rib until the top surfaces of the insert and the core are aligned, thereby forming a core and insert assembly; and

passing the core and insert assembly through an extrusion die to apply a coating.

3. (previously presented) A process for making a composite profile as recited in claim 2, wherein said coating is a thermoplastic.

4.(original) A process for making a composite profile as recited in claim 2, and further comprising the step of providing a wider gap between the insert and the core near the top than further into the core and applying coating into that wider gap.

5.(original) A process for making a composite profile as recited in claim 4, wherein said wider gap is formed by providing a recessed shoulder on said insert.

6.(original) A process for making a composite profile as recited in claim 4, wherein said wider gap is formed by making the channel wider at the top edge than at the bottom.

7.(original) A process for making a composite profile as recited in claim 2, wherein said insert piece further defines at least one side surface, and said side surface defines at least one recessed shoulder, forming a gap between said core piece and said insert piece above said recessed shoulder, and wherein said gap is filled with said coating.

8.(original) A process for making a composite profile as recited in claim 2, wherein said channel of said core piece defines at least one leg extending from said bottom surface to said top surface of said core piece, and said leg widens adjacent said top surface of said core piece to define a gap between said leg of said core piece and said insert piece, and wherein said gap is filled with said coating.

9.(original) A process for making a composite profile as recited in claim 1, wherein said channel defines at least one leg, and said insert piece defines at least one side surface, and further comprising the step of applying adhesive to at least one of said leg and said side surface prior to pressing said insert piece and said core piece together.

10. (currently amended) A process for making a composite profile, including at least one core piece and one insert piece, each having a top surface and a bottom surface, and a first end and an opposite second end, wherein said core piece defines a first channel sized to receive said insert piece, comprising the steps of:

providing a crush rib between the bottom surface of the insert piece and the first channel;

pressing the insert piece into said first channel to deform the crush rib until the top surfaces of the insert and the core are aligned;

wherein said first channel defines at least one leg, and said insert piece defines at least one side surface, and

applying adhesive to at least one of said leg and said side surface prior to pressing said insert piece and said core piece together;

wherein said bottom surface of said core piece defines at least one shallow pocket to act as a repository for any extra adhesive applied.

11. (currently amended) A process for making a composite profile, including at least one core piece and one insert piece, each having a top surface and a bottom surface, and a first end and an opposite second end, wherein said core piece defines at least a first channel sized to receive said insert piece, comprising the steps of:

providing a crush rib between the bottom surface of the insert piece and the first channel;

pressing the insert piece into said first channel to deform the crush rib until the top surfaces of the insert and the core are aligned;

wherein said first channel defines at least one leg, and said insert piece defines at least one side surface, and

applying adhesive to at least one of said leg and said side surface prior to pressing said insert piece and said core piece together;

and further comprising the step of applying adhesive along an opposite second end of said core piece so as to counter uneven expansion due to moisture absorption by said core piece from said adhesive.

12. (original) A process for making a composite profile as recited in claim 11, and further comprising the steps of:

providing a second channel along said opposite second end of said core piece; and

inserting a second insert piece into said second channel.

13. (original) A process for making a composite profile as recited in claim 12, wherein said second channel defines a second bottom surface, and said second bottom surface defines at least one shallow pocket to act as a repository for any extra adhesive applied.

Claims 14-22 (cancelled)